

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/666,250

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Ryan Gleitz

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 11/15/06.2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-16.3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).a) All b) Some* c) None of the:1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.**Attachment(s)**1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material5. Notice of Informal Patent Application6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Pous on 23 January 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

cancel claims 21 and 22; and

claim 12 has been amended as follows:

Claim 12. A powder container, comprising:

a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end;

a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body; and

an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the powder container and has a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage, selectively connectable to said base member,

wherein said base member comprises a passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which

transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole,

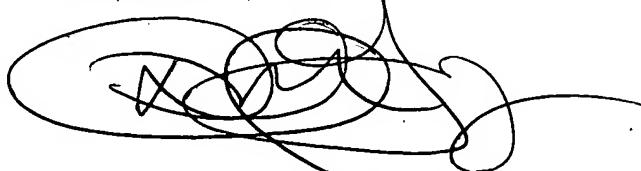
wherein said outlet member comprises a first part selectively connectable to said base member and a second part fitted in the first part and including the shutter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Gleitz whose telephone number is (571) 272-2134. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 9:00AM and 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on (571) 272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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DAVID M. GRAY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER